

The Basics:

1. **Mowing:** don't let the grass blades get taller than 1 inch to 2 inches tall during the summer, and only take off 1/3 of the grass blade at one time.
2. **Fertilizing:** 1 pound of Nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. every 4 weeks during the summer (This can be done by applying 6 pounds of 16-4-8 or 8 pounds of 12-4-8). Also a soil test might be necessary. Contact your local Extension office for details.
3. **Watering:** Best to be done from 9pm until 10 am, to reduce water loss and fungus problems. Put on a total of 1 inch per week, in no more than three waterings. The time it takes to do this depends on your watering system – put a can out under your sprinkler and check how long it takes to get a 1/2 inch of water in the can (measure with a ruler).
4. **De-Thatching:** in Spring and Fall to prevent fungus and pest problems.
5. **Aerating:** only when needed, during active plant growth and when the soil is moist.

Common Problems and Basic Prevention:

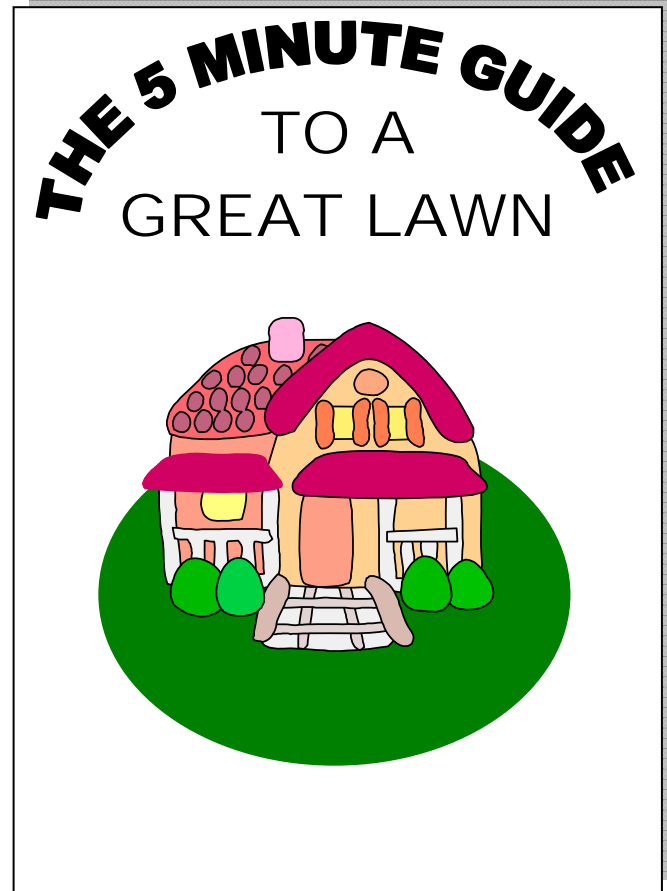
- ~ **Fungus:** (such as Brown Patch, Dollar Spot) Water correctly (not in the afternoons!). Don't fertilize after September. Mow grass at the recommended height and de-thatch in Spring.
- ~ **Mole Crickets:** call the Extension Agent for the current recommendations.
- ~ **Improper Fertilizer:** Bermuda does great with lots of Nitrogen, but looks terrible without it.

For more information, please contact
your local County Extension Agent



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Scott Angle, Dean and Director



All lawns need some management.

This quick reference guide is designed for the homeowner who doesn't have a lot of time to "baby" their lawn –but wants it to look good!

Bermuda lawns are popular and offer many advantages. Bermuda is drought and heat tolerant, grows in a wide range of soil conditions, and is pleasing to the eye.

This grass needs full sun (it does poorly in the shade), adequate watering and monthly fertilizing to look its best during the spring and summer months. During the winter, this grass goes dormant, turning brown.

Activities required include:

- Watering
- Fertilizing –twice a year only
- De-thatching
- Mowing
- Controlling weeds and pests
- Aerating

Improper watering, either too little or too much, or at the wrong time of day, is a major factor in having a poor lawn.

De-thatching is removing the accumulated dead plant tissue (thatch) from underneath the leaf blades. When thatch builds up, pests and diseases attack the turf.

Aerating is simply poking holes through the grass and into the soil, loosening the soil so that air, water, and roots will have some room. This can be done by renting a machine called an "Aerator", walking around with golf shoes on, or any other means of poking small holes through the grass into the soil.

Lawn Maintenance Schedule:

<i>Month</i>	<i>Activity</i>
January	Read some good books, volunteer at your favorite charity.
February	Kill summer weeds early-call the Extension office for the latest herbicide recommendations. ~ Once the danger of frost has passed, de-thatch and aerates. Do this once before the grass turns green.
March	Kill summer weeds early-call the Extension office for the latest herbicide recommendations.
April	~ Water * see back panel ~ De-thatch ~ When the grass turns green it's called "green-up". Fertilize with 5 pounds of 16-4-8 per 1000 sq.ft. of lawn. ~ Mow- 1 to 2 inches high
May	~ Water ~ Apply insecticide to reduce billbugs ~ Fertilize 6 lbs of 16-4-8 per 1000 sq.ft. of lawn ~ Mow-1 to 2 inches high

<i>Month</i>	<i>Activity</i>
June	~ Water ~ Apply insecticide for reduce billbugs ~ Fertilize 6 lbs of 16-4-8 per 1000 sq.ft. of lawn ~ Mow- 1 to 2 inches high
July	~ Water ~ Fertilize 6 lbs of 16-4-8 per 1000 sq.ft. of lawn ~ Mow-1 to 2 inches high
August	~ Water ~ Fertilize 6 lbs of 16-4-8 per 1000 sq.ft. of lawn ~ Mow-1 to 2 inches high
September	~ Water ~ Fertilize 6 lbs of 16-4-8 per 1000 sq.ft. of lawn (Last time!) ~ Mow-1 to 2 inches high
October	~ Water ~ Kill winter weeds- call the Extension office for the latest herbicide recommendations. ~ Mow-set the blade to 2 inches to prepare the grass for winter.
November	In cool weather the grass will go dormant and rest...so should we.
December	Enjoy the Holiday Season! Volunteer at your favorite charity.

** Continue to check your lawn for signs of diseases, fungus, or pests during the growing season.*